

**Board Chair:**

Elizabeth Shuping

Executive Director: Amy Breault**Contact Information:**

3926 Wesley Street

Unit 303

Myrtle Beach SC 29579

Phone: (843) 236-5402**Fax:** (843) 236-5518**E-mail:**

abreault@scfirststeps.org

Total children in county under age 6: 16,340**Children under age 6 living in poverty: 18.7%**

Horry County Highlights

- All facilities in the FQE program demonstrated gains on the FCCRS-R
- “The Director’s Network has been my lifeline. Without it I would not have made through this year as a child care director.”
- The PAT program served 90% of the projected number of families in FY08

Horry County

First Steps Partnership

Fiscal Year 2008 Annual Report

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S MESSAGE

During FY08 Horry County First Steps experienced many types of changes.

After two years of working with Child Development Centers we focused on Family/Group providers in our FY08 FQE program. We added two new staff members to provide TA to the FQE participants. Although we continued the Director’s Network training program many new participants joined our group.

We were challenged to meet the program requirements in each of our main programs with PAT and PCH being impacted the most. Not only were there new requirements but also new assessments. Both programs had to adjust to the addition of new staff members and participating families.

Through the changes one constant remained: Getting children ready for school. Families in need of support and services will be our focus. Ensuring that children enter school healthy and ready to learn will continue to be our mission.

This report is but a mere reflection of the impact we are having with children, families, and communities. As we continue to partner together our future is brighter.

Warmest Regards,
Amy Breault
Executive Director
Horry County First Steps

First Steps to School Readiness Strategy Areas

The First Steps initiative approaches children's school readiness needs in five ways:

Family Strengthening: A parent is a child's first and best teacher. First Steps works to help parents become the best parents they can be. First Steps also helps parents further their own education.

Healthy Start: Children's development and ability to learn are profoundly impacted by their health in the earliest years. First Steps works to help families understand children's health needs through education and screenings while also working to help them access needed health services.

Quality Child Care: Quality child care provides immediate and long-term learning benefits for children. First Steps works to expand the availability of quality child-care to families and to enhance the level of quality in existing child-care environments.

Early Education: Research shows that children who participate in high-quality preschool classes are more likely to start school ready to learn, as well as be more successful later in life. First Steps works to expand high-quality 3-year-old and 4-year-old kindergarten opportunities in public and private settings.

School Transition: The transition into kindergarten is a critical time that sets the tone for children's perspectives about the school years, as well their parents' perspectives. Making a strong initial connection between school and home -- and supporting both parents and students during this transition time -- has been shown to impact students' later school success and parents' later involvement during the school years.

2007-08 County Partnership Programs by Strategy

FAMILY STRENGTHENING.

The KIPS is an evaluation of parenting behaviors related to interactions between parents and children. It involves an observation of a parent playing with his or her child for 20 minutes to examine 12 different behaviors. The KIPS is used to evaluate parents of children ages 2 months old up to 5 years of age. KIPS is an evaluation based on a 5-point scoring scale.

The ACIRI is an interactive reading inventory for parents and children ages 2.5 years old to 5 years old. The ACIRI is a literacy-specific evaluation based on the observation of a parent and child reading together and is scored on a 3-point scale. It evaluates the interactions between parents and children relating to literacy acquisition.

Parents As Teachers

Program description: The PAT program is designed to provide parents with child development knowledge and parent support. We began the HCFS PAT program in February 2005 and it continues to provide the parents in our county with the support they need.

Program results:

- 50 Children and 44 Adults were served in FY08
- After analyzing the KIPS assessment results it was determined that parents need more support as children develop from infants to toddlers
- The FY08 PAT program served all of Horry County which encompassing approximately 1,134 square miles
- 34 families received 382 home visits and 93 families attended group meetings throughout the year

FAMILY STRENGTHENING.

Parent Child Home

Program description: The PCH program mission is to increase the language and literacy skills of children, enhancing the social-emotional development, and strengthening the parent-child relationship.

Program results:

- 46 families including 50 children received bi-weekly visits throughout Horry County
- A total of 1458 home visits were conducted by PCH home visitors
- Families demonstrated a 13% matched increase on the KIPS and a 17% matched increase on the ACIRI

HEALTHY START.

Prenatal Vitamins

Program description: Every woman who receives a positive pregnancy test at the local Health Departments is given a month's worth of vitamins. The expectant mother is able to begin taking the vitamins while waiting for her first prenatal visit.

Program results:

- 350 bottles of vitamins were distributed

QUALITY CHILD CARE.

Facility Quality Enhancement

Program description: The FQE program provided funding for six family/group child care providers to acquire materials and supplies that increased the quality of care being provided to children.

Program results:

- 36 children enrolled in the six family child care facilities were impacted directly
- 60% of the participating facilities made a gain of .5 on the FCCERS-R
- Over 150 Technical Assistance visits were made to participating facilities
- A total of 284 hours of TA was given to the child care providers

EARLY EDUCATION.

Child Care Quality Training

Program description: The Director's Network training provided high quality training sessions for child care directors with the intent of assisting attendees to become an agent of change in their child care facilities.

Program results:

- A group of 10 child care directors attended 11 sessions
- Each participant received 55 hours of training
- Participants were able to participate in a PAS assessment

Storyteller Program

Program description: As a part of Library Outreach, Manuel Vega visits child development facilities and programs throughout Horry County reading to children. As part of the program HCFS provides high-quality children's books for him to distribute to children.

Program results:

- Over 400 books were distributed to children

Financial Summary

<u>Expenditures by Funding Source</u>			
State Appropriation.	\$ 542,878	State Private	\$119
E.I.A. Appropriation	\$29,915	Local Private	\$11,227
Lottery Appropriation	\$	Federal	\$
C.D.E.P.P. Appropriation	\$	In-Kind	\$103,678
C.O.E. Appropriation	\$		



<u>Expenditures by Program/Strategy Name</u>	
Parents As Teachers	\$154,344

Parent Child Home	\$216,459
Storyteller	\$2201
Facility Quality Enhancement	\$126,587
Child Care Training and Professional Develop	\$40,223
Childcare Scholarships	\$34,873
Prenatal Vitamins	\$880
Child Care Health Consultant	\$29,353
Indirect Programmatic Functions	\$39,253
Administrative Functions	\$43,644
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 687,817

NOTABLE DONORS

<i>DONOR'S NAME</i>	AMOUNT
United Way of Horry County	\$10,000
TOTAL:	\$10,000

Local Match Percentage for FY 2008: 21.26%
(at least 15% Legislative requirement)

COUNTY PARTNERSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Cynthia Goodrich, Pre-Kindergarten through Primary Education
Pamela McAlpine, Family Education, Training, and Support Provider
Sarah Norton, Childcare and Early Childhood Development/Education Provider
Willie Ann Hucks, Healthcare Provider
Sue Ellen Wilson, Non Profit Organization that Provides Services to Families and Children
Geri Gaskill, Non Profit Organization that Provides Services to Families and Children
Nettie Eaddy, Business Community
Sheila Freeman, Persons from Early Childhood Education
Melissa Duncan, Persons from Early Childhood Education
Phillip Brown, Appointed by the County Department of Social Services
Sarah Moorman, Appointed by the County Department of Health and Environmental Control
Rosa Knox, Appointed by the County Head Start Program
Elizabeth Shuping, Appointed by the County Library
Sharon Timmerman, Appointed by the School District in the County

COUNTY DATA SNAPSHOT

In FY08, First Steps County Partnerships statewide made it a priority to become increasingly data-driven. County Partnerships successfully began using powerful new components of the First Steps data system, and County Partnerships also utilized data in new ways to drive their FY09 program plans. In addition to enhanced program data tracking, County Partnerships are also focusing on the best available data about children and families to best understand their communities' needs. At the end of FY08 and the beginning of FY09, County Partnerships began an extensive analysis of this data, including data about the risk factors known to impact children's potential school success, such as low birth weight, teen mothers, and families living in poverty. A county-level risk data report is included in the subsequent pages of this report.

2008 School Readiness Risk Profile

Horry County

Total Children Under Six: 16,992

CHILD POVERTY (Children in Families Receiving TANF Benefits)

Statewide Average (2007): 8.4%

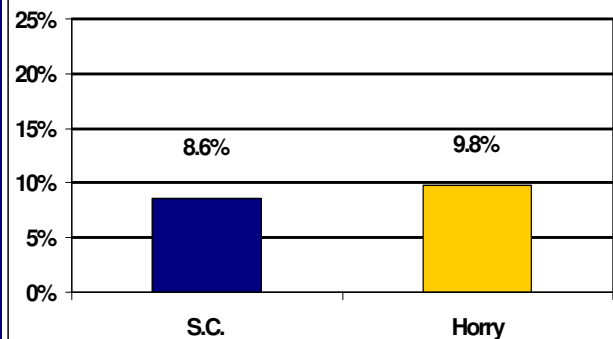
Horry County (2007): 9.8%

Fast Fact: Roughly 1 in 10 Horry County children has an annual family income equivalent to \$10,325 (or less) for a family of four. A recent statewide analysis suggests that 45% of these children will be retained or score at the "below basic" level (PACT) by third grade.

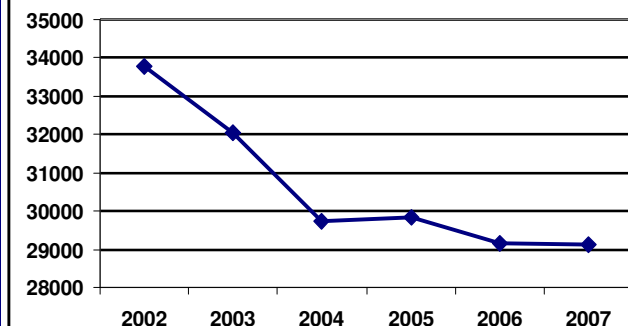
Children in deep poverty often face a wide variety of school readiness obstacles, ranging from inadequate prenatal care and nutrition to low maternal education.

1,576 of Horry County's 16,992 children under age 6 received federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits during 2007, indicating a family income at or below 50% of the federal poverty definition.

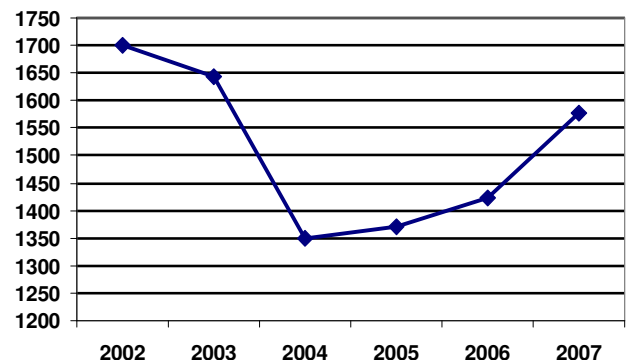
Children Under Age 6 Receiving TANF Benefits
(August 2007)



South Carolina Children Under Age 6
Receiving TANF Benefits
2002-2007



Horry Children Under Age 6
Receiving TANF Benefits
2002-2007



2008 School Readiness Risk Profile

Horry County

Total Children Under Six: 16,992

CHILDREN AT LOW BIRTH WEIGHT (Less Than 5.5 lbs.)

Statewide Average (2005): 10.2%

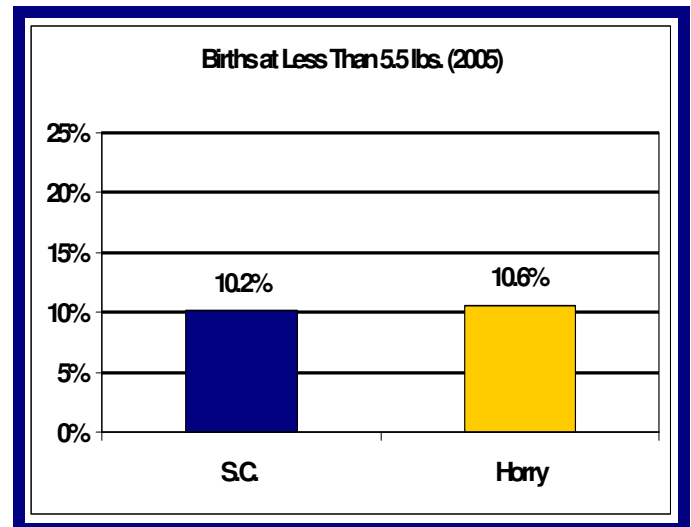
Horry County (2005): 10.6%

Fast Fact: 1 in 10 Horry County children is born at a weight less than 5.5 lbs. A recent statewide analysis suggests that at least one-third of these children (36%-52% depending on weight category) will be retained or score at the “below basic” level (PACT) by third grade.

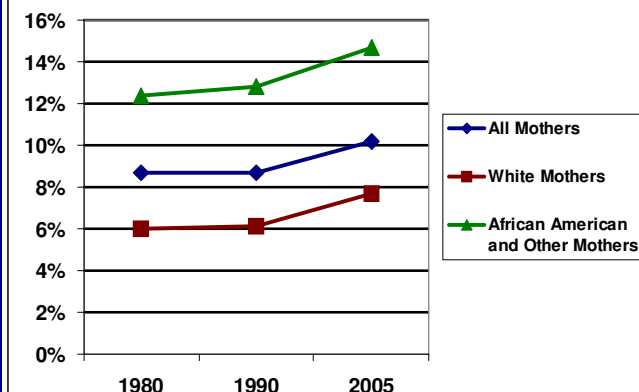
Babies born at low weights are often prone to developmental delays associated with early academic failure.

Many have received inadequate prenatal care and suffer from significant health complications.

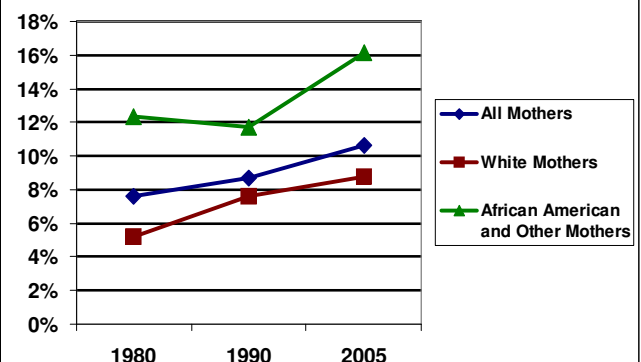
309 of the 2,903 children born in Horry County during 2005 weighed less than 5.5 lbs.



South Carolina Births at Less than 5.5 lbs.



Horry County Births at Less than 5.5 lbs.



2008 School Readiness Risk Profile

Horry County

Total Children Under Six: 16,992

BIRTHS TO TEENAGE MOTHERS

Statewide Average (2005): 13.2%

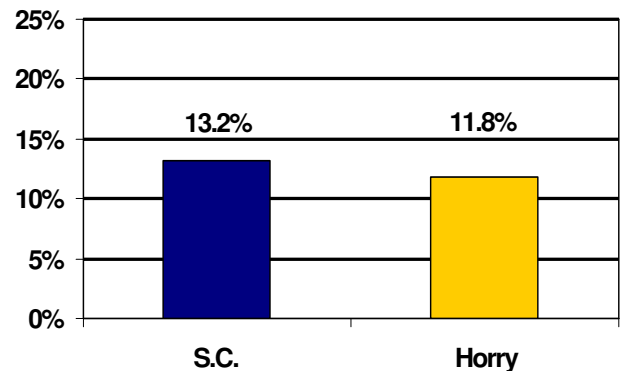
Horry County (2005): 11.8%

Fast Fact: Roughly 1 in 9 Horry County births is to a mother under 20 years of age. A recent statewide analysis suggests that 43% of these children will be retained or score at the “below basic” level (PACT) by third grade.

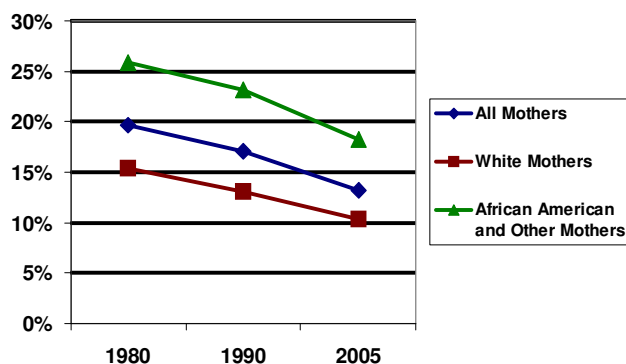
Teenage parents often lack the maturity and knowledge required to optimally fulfill important parental responsibilities, are less likely to advance their own educational attainment and often fail to advance beyond low-income status.

343 of the 2,903 children born in Horry County during 2005 had teenage mothers.

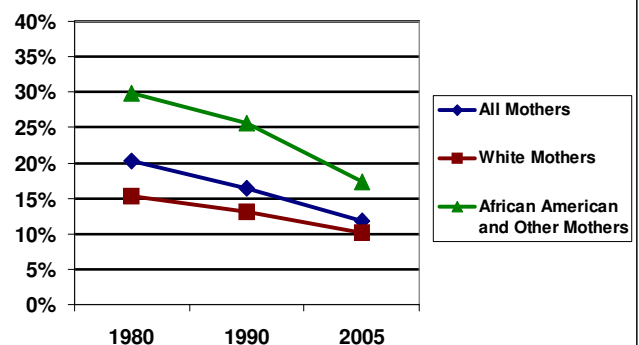
Births to Teenage Mothers (2005)



South Carolina Births to Teenage Mothers



Horry County Births to Teenage Mothers



2008 School Readiness Risk Profile

Horry County

Total Children Under Six: 16,992

BIRTHS TO MOTHERS WITH LESS THAN A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

Statewide Average (2005): 23.7%

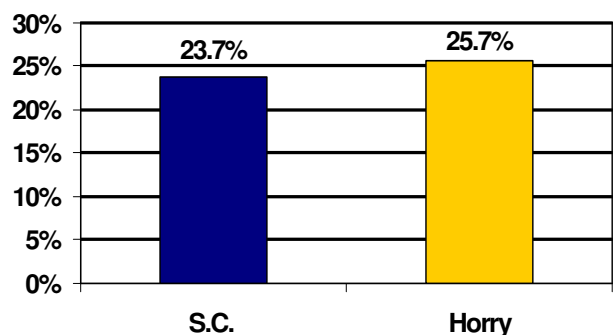
Horry County (2005): 25.7%

Fast Fact: 1 in 4 children in Horry County is born to a mother possessing less than a high school diploma. A recent statewide analysis suggests that roughly half (48%) of these children will be retained or score at the “below basic” level (PACT) by third grade.

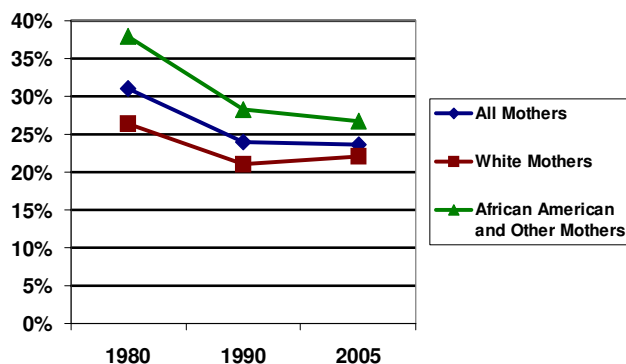
Research suggests that a mother’s own educational attainment is closely linked to the subsequent academic performance of her children.

745 of the 2,903 children born in Horry County during 2005 had mothers with less than a high school diploma.

Births to Mothers with Less than a High School Diploma (2005)



SC Births to Mothers with Less than a High School Diploma



Horry County Births to Mothers with Less than a High School Diploma

